

# South Precinct Email Community Newsletter

February 7, 2007



Dear Community Friends,

## **Recent Activity**

There have been several reported incidents of Home Invasion Robberies in the Seattle area. In the past two weeks, one home invasion robbery occurred in the Mount Baker neighborhood, one near Othello Park and one in the Lakeridge neighborhood just south of the city limits. The times of when these have occurred vary; two occurred in late evening hours while one occurred during early morning. One of the victims was injured during the robbery. The number of perpetrators has been 2-4 individuals, most likely males ranging in age from mid/late teens – early/mid 20s. The perpetrators were armed in two of the events. Witnesses have not been able to provide definitive suspect descriptions for any of the perpetrators and we do not know at this time if the same perpetrators committed all three robberies. In the Lakeridge robbery, the perpetrators stole the victim's vehicle, a gray 2007 Volkswagen Jetta, (license # 595-VWS) and it has yet to be located. If you see this car, call 911 immediately. The driver and occupants are considered armed and dangerous.

In one case, the intruders gained entry by forcing open a basement window. In another, intruders knocked on the door and the victim answered and opened the door, even though he didn't know who they were.

When someone comes to your door, we advise that you answer the door. Let the person outside the door know that someone is home. Since burglars mostly try to avoid someone being home, by letting them know you're there you may thwart a burglary attempt. **Answering** the door does not mean **opening** the door. Always know who's on the other side of that door before you open it. Even if you are expecting someone, take a moment to look outside and see who is there. If you do not have a peephole, either go to a side window that allows you to see who's at the door or install one. If you don't recognize the person, ***do not open the door***. Talk to them through the door. Don't worry about being rude; this is about your safety, not their feelings. By not opening the door, you keep a barrier between you and the unknown person. You are better protected and have more safety options.

## **Home Security – What Works**

We're continuing our theme of practical and effective security tips to help secure your home from residential burglary and to make your neighborhood less attractive to the potential burglar.

### **Recommendations Regarding Doors With Glass Portions:**

Doors with glass panels are vulnerable. An intruder could break the glass panel, reach in and unlock the door. Consider one or more of the following options:

- Install a flip latch close to the floor out of arms reach.
- Install a floor bolt on the door, with a bolt that extends at least 1" into the floor.
- If the door has a single cylinder deadbolt – or no dead bolt - consider replacing the installing a double cylinder deadbolt lock. This would require a key to be used to open the lock from the inside as well. Remember to remove the key from the lock and store it away from the reach of the door.

***Note: per Seattle Fire Code, double cylinder deadbolts cannot be installed in rental properties.***

- Cover the window of the door with Plexiglas or decorative grillwork that will prevent an intruder from breaking the glass and reaching in to unlock the door.
- Replace the glass portion with more durable, thicker glass.
- Replacement with a solid door that has some glass in the upper portion, but with thicker, more durable glass and smaller panes.
- Replace the door with one that is solid core with no glass upper panel.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator